Closing down of ICHR

149. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down the Indian Council of Historical Research;

(b) if so, what are the reasons threrefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for frequent transfers in the Council?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been no frequent transfers of the employees of the Council in the recent past.

Shortage of seats in Delhi University Colleges

150. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of shortage of seats in various courses in Delhi University and its colleges; and

(b) in what manner Government are going to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) During 1985, a total of 41,226 students have passed higher secondary examination from Delhi and have qualified for admission to various under-graduate courses. As against this, the University can admit 24,878 students to various full-time under-graduate courses, 11,500 to Correspondence Courses, and 3020 students to the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. Accordingly, 39,398 students would be able to pursue higher education programmes, leaving a marginal shortfall of about 1800 seats.

Discussion on the sharing of Ganga Waters

151. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal before leaving for Dhaka for a discussion on the sharing of Ganga waters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps were taken by him in the light of discussion with the Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. I had a discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal before leaving for Dhaka for talks on the Ganga waters issue. The Chief Minister indicated the water requirements of the Calcutta Port and for irrigation in West Bengal from Ganga waters. These were kept in view along with other relevant factors during the discussions with Bangladesh.

Construction by Bangladesh of an Embankment along the Kodla River

152. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the construction of an embankment by the Bangladesh Government along the Kodla River running along the Indo-Bangladesh border is likely to cause flooding of large area of the Bongaon sub-division of 24-Parganas in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, steps Government have taken to save the area?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The District Magistrate 24-Parganas (West Bengal) has already addressed the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore (Bangladesh) requesting him to take steps immediately to stop the construction embankment. The Chief Engineer, West Bengal, who is the Chairman of the Local Level Committee of the Joint Rivers Commission is also taking up the matter with his counterpart from Bangladesh.

Guwahati Inland Container Depot

153. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Guwahati Inland Container Depot is likely to start functioning;

(b) whether the Railway Department and the tea industry have reached an agreement for the successful commissioning of the said ICD; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) The Inland Container Depot at Amingaon near Guwahati is likely to be commissioned this year.

(b) and (c) No formal agreement is entered into between the Railways and the users of the Inland Container Depot. However, the process of consultation between the Railways and the representatives of various interests like the tea trade, Tea Association of India, State Government of Assam, Customs, Port etc., has already been completed and their points of view taken into consideration.

Railway Coach Factory at Gulbarga

154. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for establishing a coach factory at Gulbarga in Karnataka was examined by the Railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gulbarga was one of the various sites examined for location of the new coach factory. It has since been decided to locate the factory in Punjab.

New Coaches

155. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of new coaches manufactured during the last three years to replace the old coaches and how many of these new coaches have been actually utilised to replace the old coaches; and

(b) what are the reasons for not utilising all the new coaches manufactured to replace the old ones and the manner in which these new coaches are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) 3249 Passenger Carrying Vehicles of all gauges were manufactured from 1982-83 to 1984-85. Out of these, 2639 coaches were put on service for replacement of overaged coaches and balance were utilised for augumentation of old services and introduction of new trains.

Complaints against DTC Drivers and Conductors

156. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have of late been an increase in complaints by the commuters as also by some Members of Parliament about the callousness of and rash and negligent driving by the drivers;

(b) the number of DTC bus accidents which took place during the period from 1st October, 1984 to June, 1985 and which occurred due to rash